

**From:** Michael Shaw  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Michael Shaw  
Systems Administrator  
Johnson & Wales University  
8 Abbott Park Place  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
P: 401-598-4357 F 401-598-1511

**Michael Shaw**  
Johnson & Wales University  
8 Abbott Park Place  
Providence, RI 02903

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John Ashcroft, Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

Based on my background and experience in the technology industry, I think that the Microsoft antitrust case should be settled on the terms that are on the table now. Obviously, the terms could be tinkered with endlessly. Still, after three months of negotiate with the mediator appointed by the new federal judge on the case, the parties should have had ample opportunity to make the agreement as good as they could get it.

The terms of the agreement will make it easier to work with Microsoft, which has been a stickler for holding to its legal right from copyright and patent infringement, to driving a hard bargain in contract negotiations. For example, Microsoft has been insisting on exclusive marketing agreements, under which a personal computer, PC, building company must put Microsoft's Windows operating system on all of its computers or not receive the legal right to use Windows at all. The other terms reflect the same opening up of Microsoft to enable its partners, rival and competitors an even greater participation in its overwhelming, and hard earned, success. This settlement will be good from computing, and good for America.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Shaw